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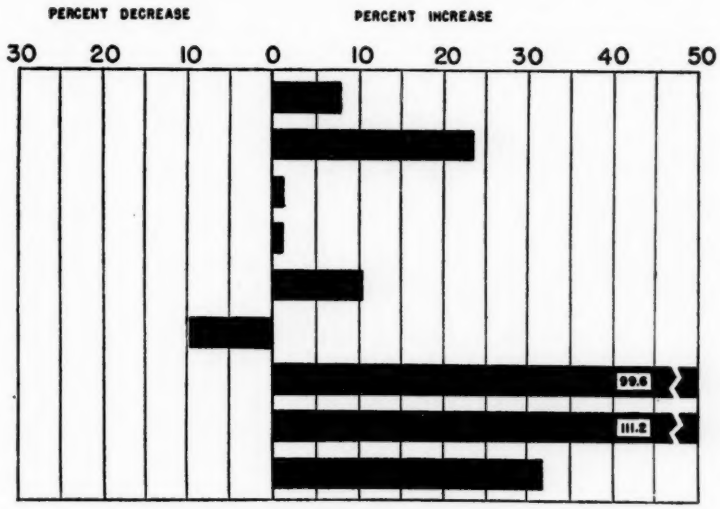
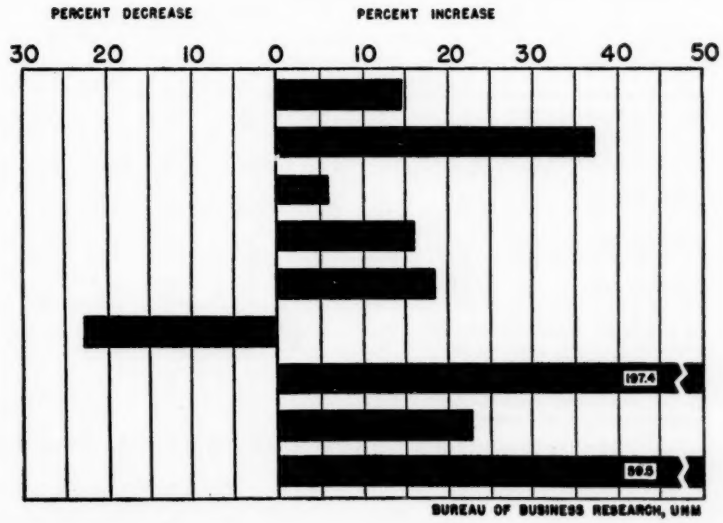
New Mexico Business at a Glance

December 1952 Compared With November 1952



December 1952 Compared With December 1951



REVIEW OF NEW MEXICO BUSINESS IN 1952

Now we have the cold figures of last year's business, summarizing the varied enterprise which went on in New Mexico in 1952. New jobs were created, more productive work was done than ever before in the State's history. But at the same time some jobs evaporated, some industries slumped, as is typical in a dynamic economy. Increasing signs appeared during the year of a mild business slowdown, but gains for the State as a whole far exceeded losses. The story is set forth in detail in the articles which follow.

Mining

Copper, zinc, and lead, in descending order are the important metals in New Mexico's mining industry. Copper alone in the first six months of 1952 accounted for nearly 65 per cent of the total value of metal production in the State. Fortunately the demand for copper in recent years has been strong and steady. The demand for zinc and lead is far more variable. Since the Korean war began, zinc and lead have commanded prices high enough to stimulate production in the State, but this situation changed drastically in 1952. With rising production and imports, government controls on size of inventory and on use of the two metals were dropped at midyear, and in June of 1952 the price of lead dropped from 19 cents a pound to 16 cents, and zinc from 19.5 cents to 14 cents. By December further declines had brought lead to 14 cents and zinc to 12.5 cents.

These low prices forced nearly all of the small producers of lead and zinc in the State to close down, and caused the large producers to curtail and in some cases to cease production. Average monthly production of zinc in New Mexico for the first three months of 1952 was 4,594 tons; during the last three months of the year it had dropped to 3,190 tons. Lead production was not so drastically affected, but unfortunately lead accounted for only about 8.5 per cent of the value of metals production in the State last year, while zinc was nearly three times as important.

Copper production declined slightly on a nationwide basis in 1952 from 1951, but rose 5 per cent in New Mexico, where 77,000 tons were produced, more than in any year except 1942. The difficulty of increasing copper production, even when backed by heavy demand and government encouragement, is shown by the fact that from 1940 through 1951 domestic copper production increased only 0.4 per cent per year. Yet the industry was "trying" to the utmost during most of this period.

About 3,500 jobs in the State now depend on metal mining, and all but 275 of these are in Grant county. At the close of 1952 it appeared that the continued demand for copper had absorbed the job losses in Grant county due to lowered production of zinc. The Hanover Mine of the Empire Zinc Company quit production in October, but 60 of the 150 employees were kept on, doing developmental and exploratory work. The Oswaldo Number 1 and Number 2 zinc mines of the Kennecott Copper Corporation, which employed about the same number of men as the Hanover mine, were cut on approximately the same basis. The American Smelting and Refining Company, biggest zinc producer in the State, curtailed production by cutting the work week from six to five days, but kept its 225 employees otherwise actively mining. However, another drop in the price of zinc occurred early in February 1953, increasing the possibility of further production cuts in the near future. All men laid off from the Kennecott zinc operations were absorbed in Kennecott's open-pit copper mine at Santa Rita, and the men laid off by Empire Zinc probably found work in the copper pit also.

Lead mining in Grant county so far has been less

TABLE I

METALLICS PRODUCTION AND EMPLOYMENT
New Mexico--1951 & 1952

		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Year
Gold (fine ounces)	1951	247	254	283	489	332	424	389	510	202	244	371	214	3,959
	1952	173	363	246	259	120	255	303	291	210	209	260	211	2,900
Silver (fine ounces)	1951	31,814	30,081	33,234	37,467	41,767	39,752	40,842	38,387	36,462	41,883	40,200	31,378	443,267
	1952	38,279	40,407	34,536	40,215	43,156	44,434	45,142	43,656	34,359	42,451	50,200	43,165	500,000
Copper (short tons)	1951	6,388	6,087	5,960	6,188	6,952	6,408	6,311	4,589	4,774	6,687	6,614	6,600	73,558
	1952	6,900	6,448	6,784	7,108	7,283	5,971	6,389	6,525	6,409	6,432	5,751	5,000	77,000
Lead (short tons)	1951	446	474	564	467	484	446	498	469	465	531	506	496	5,846
	1952	550	566	616	559	606	573	529	612	567	644	590	468	6,880
Zinc (short tons)	1951	3,509	3,156	3,542	3,635	4,254	4,227	4,368	3,612	3,020	4,096	4,004	3,996	45,419
	1952	4,536	4,680	4,565	5,079	4,885	4,672	4,817	4,340	4,255	3,551	3,015	3,005	51,400
Index of Total Production (No. Av. 1947-49=100)	1951	113.6	107.1	111.1	114.9	129.3	123.1	124.0	97.7	91.5	124.6	123.3	121.7	115.2
	1952	131.4	129.4	131.4	140.1	139.6	123.9	129.6	126.9	123.3	117.3	104.3	94.2	124.3
Index of Employment (No. Av. 1947-49=100)	1951	90.7	93.8	96.9	96.9	96.9	100.0	100.0	103.2	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	98.2
	1952	106.3	109.4	109.4	109.4	112.5	112.5	112.5	112.5	112.5	112.5	109.4	109.4	110.7

Source: United States Bureau of Mines and Bureau of Business Research based on reports of the New Mexico Employment Security Commission.

TABLE II

INDEXES OF ACTIVITY OF POTASH AND COAL MINING
New Mexico--1951 & 1952

(Monthly Average 1947-49 = 100)

		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Year
Potash Production	1951	126.3	115.3	138.6	138.7	143.2	129.7	138.7	139.9	137.6	138.1	139.0	144.3	135.8
	1952	140.8	144.4	160.3	156.5	167.2	159.3	161.5	161.2	162.3	165.9	161.7	164.7	163.8
Employment in Potash	1951	121.7	127.5	127.5	115.9	115.9	121.7	121.7	121.7	121.7	121.7	121.7	121.7	121.7
	1952	121.7	127.5	133.3	139.0	139.0	139.0	139.0	139.0	144.8	144.8	150.6	150.6	139.0
Coal Production	1951	69.2	49.2	53.4	50.6	52.1	47.9	37.6	62.4	57.8	55.4	65.9	73.0	56.2
	1952	75.0	72.8	75.8	56.7	63.9	34.3	16.8	36.6	69.9	50.5	59.8	59.4	56.0
Employment in Coal	1951	64.7	64.7	64.7	64.7	57.5	64.7	50.3	57.5	57.5	57.5	57.5	57.5	59.8
	1952	64.7	57.5	57.5	57.5	57.5	57.5	50.3	50.3	50.3	50.3	50.3	50.3	54.5

Source: New Mexico Bureau of Revenue, New Mexico State Mine Inspector, United States Bureau of Mines, and the Bureau of Business Research based on reports of the New Mexico Employment Security Commission.

hampered by falling prices than has zinc, but lead also declined again in price in early February 1953, and it is possible that lead miners will soon have to seek work in copper operations. Whether the copper mines can continue to absorb such workers is another question.

The prices of copper, lead, and zinc to New Mexico producers are determined in part by world metallics production. Thus the recently dropping prices of lead and zinc are attributed by American producers to heavy imports from Canada, Mexico, and Peru. Copper imports, on the other hand, far from driving the price of domestic copper down, have resulted in two prices. While domestic copper has held fairly steady at around 24.5 cents a pound, imports have commanded a substantial premium over the domestic price during 1952, which premium foreign producers have exacted from an unwilling United States. American copper producers are not able to deal so advantageously with their own government, and although they are working their mines at a profit, the "pampering" of foreign copper in the interests of stockpiling is not pleasant for them to contemplate. Possibly they will make a convincing case to the new Administration for price relief in 1953, as the oil industry succeeded in doing this month.

In the previous paragraphs the number of metal mine workers in New Mexico outside Grant county was listed at approximately 275. This figure applies to "conventional" metals; it does not include employees in uranium mines in the Colorado Plateau of northwestern New Mexico, extending south to the Grants area. These figures are withheld, possibly because they might furnish a rough index to production. However, some of the general aspects of uranium mining in New Mexico can be discussed.

The new uranium ore-processing mill of the Anaconda Copper Company at Grants, which will be completed during the summer of 1953, will need not only uranium ore, but also a source of power. This will be provided by an electrical generating plant, designed to burn coal mined in the Grants area. No coal is currently being mined in Valencia county (Grants), and Anaconda was reluctant to go into the relatively unfamiliar field of coal mining on its own. Much of the problem is being solved by installation of a Cardox auger, which will extract coal by boring a 40 inch hole horizontally into a five-foot seam, eliminating the need for underground digging. This operation will furnish only the scantiest increase in employment in coal mining in the State, but it suggests that uses of New Mexico coal can possibly be expanded by highly mechanized production. The Cardox auger represents an initial outlay of around $20,000. Such high costs would be multiplied many times in mechanizing larger-scale coal operations, but this may be the only hope of the coal industry so long as oil and natural gas continue to drive coal off the market.

The inroads of petroleum on coal are often cited as evidence that the State has no overall "mining" industry with common interests, but instead has several different extractive industries, which not only lack common interests, but may be antagonistic to one another. While this is undeniably true in the case of coal and petroleum, the Anaconda mill at Grants is a reminder that metal extraction depends on power, and that any other expansion in mining in the State will need still more power, to be furnished by New Mexico coal or petroleum or natural gas, as the case may be.

The possibility of expanded mining operations certainly exists in uranium. Private companies are spending $3 million a year drilling for uranium in the Colorado Plateau, including much of northwestern New Mexico, and over 200 mines are currently producing in the four-state area. Two new purchase stations, at Grants and Shiprock, began receiving ore in 1952, and will presumably be integrated with the Anaconda mill at Grants when it goes into operation. Oil men believe they can test for uranium at all depths in wells being drilled in the current oil exploration program, and if this is true, New Mexico, with constantly increasing oil activity and already proven uranium deposits, is particularly likely to benefit.

Coal production in New Mexico continued to decline in 1952, with a total production of 775,915 tons, compared with 779,377 tons in 1951. Coal mining jobs dropped off from a monthly average of 771 in the first 10 months of 1951, to 705 in 1952. The hardest hit of the State's several coal mining areas was McKinley county, where the

TABLE III

PETROLEUM PRODUCTION AND EMPLOYMENT
New Mexico--1951 & 1952

		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Year
Production (000 barrels)														
Lea County	1951	3,530.1	3,185.8	3,804.4	3,982.0	3,917.7	4,064.7	4,076.6	3,404.4	4,313.2	3,424.5	4,777.6	4,274.0	46,757.2
	1952	4,388.8	3,504.7	5,456.1	4,843.2	2,326.9	4,636.1	4,860.7	4,295.3	4,704.0	4,922.2	4,712.1	5,142.4	53,992.5
Eddy County	1951	310.0	360.6	297.4	302.1	336.7	357.4	295.1	344.0	314.3	324.3	303.2	321.3	3,866.4
	1952	307.1	240.5	351.1	309.4	270.4	310.9	322.4	252.5	292.9	295.2	257.3	337.0	3,546.7
Chaves County	1951	15.9	15.9	20.3	17.9	18.6	17.6	15.7	16.7	9.7	17.8	15.0	16.6	197.7
	1952	15.0	17.2	21.2	11.4	8.2	19.1	15.2	23.9	13.7	15.0	12.4	11.9	184.2
McKinley County	1951	17.6(E)	15.6(E)	15.4(E)	14.2	16.4	15.8	15.9	16.7(E)	15.7	15.2	13.9(E)	20.4(E)	193.2
	1952	15.4	15.0	29.2	12.5	16.2	13.6	13.4	13.3	13.1	13.3	13.1	14.5	182.6
San Juan County	1951	12.1	10.5	13.0	13.2	16.6	12.9	13.2	5.9	9.7	5.6	5.1	10.6	128.4
	1952	10.8	9.8	5.7	9.5	10.0	3.8	10.1	4.5	10.5	10.4	15.6	10.9	111.6
Rio Arriba County	1952	13.0	21.9	21.9	24.7	30.4	25.0	30.6	36.8	33.7	38.9	31.0	32.2	340.1
Roosevelt County	1952	0.4(E)	0.4(E)	0.4(E)	0.4(E)	0.4(E)	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.4	5.0
Total (State)	1951	3,885.9	3,588.6	4,150.5	4,329.4	4,306.0	4,468.4	4,418.5	3,787.7	4,662.6	3,787.4	5,115.0	4,642.9	51,142.9
	1952	4,750.5	3,809.5	5,885.6	5,211.1	2,662.5	5,209.0	5,252.8	4,626.7	5,068.3	5,295.4	5,042.0	5,549.3	58,362.7
Index (State)	1951	105.3	97.3	112.5	117.3	116.7	121.1	119.8	102.7	126.4	102.7	138.6	125.8	115.5
(No. Av. 1947-49=100)	1952	128.8	103.3	159.5	141.2	72.2	141.2	142.4	125.4	137.4	143.5	136.7	150.4	131.8
Employment Index	1951	101.6	103.6	103.6	105.5	109.3	118.9	122.7	128.5	134.3	140.0	138.1	143.8	120.4
(No. Av. 1947-49=100)	1952	151.5	147.7	151.5	149.6	155.3	161.1	161.1	159.2	161.1	161.1	161.1	163.0	156.9

(E) Estimates by Bureau of Business Research from unallocated totals reported by Severance Tax Division.

Source: New Mexico Bureau of Revenue and Bureau of Business Research based on reports of the New Mexico Employment Security Commission.

largest producer, Defiance Coal Company, with 53 employees, ceased production in March. This company had been producing about 4,000 tons of coal a month, nearly all of which was shipped by rail to markets in Arizona and California. Competition of the newly completed natural gas line from the San Juan area of New Mexico across northern Arizona put the mine out of business.

During the summer natural gas service was also extended into Gallup, and to date 700 homes there have been connected for natural gas, most of them switching from coal, some from butane or propane. This further depressed the market for McKinley county coal. Production in the State for September-October-November was 81 per cent of production for January-February-March; but McKinley county produced only 56 per cent as much coal in the fall months as during the first of the year.

The trend toward use of natural gas to replace coal in electric power generation is a major cause of the decline in the State's coal production. Wherever natural gas is readily available the switch is usually inevitable, on a fuel-cost basis. Even so, coal has not completely lost its competitive position, for where new equipment is available to burn finely-divided coal under forced draft it becomes a considerably more efficient fuel, with costs close to the cost of natural gas. Unfortunately, existing boilers which burn lump coal can be converted to burn gas at a cost which is far less than the cost of conversion to handling finely-divided coal. The latter requires installing entirely new equipment. Therefore, the new-type coal burning power stations are only being built where an entire new plant is needed, or where natural gas cannot be had. This seems to mean continued conversion to gas by New Mexico power plants.

While McKinley county's coal industry suffered a major slump, Colfax county, the largest coal center of the State, gained slightly in coal-mining jobs during the year, primarily because the mines at Koehler added a few men. Daily production was up, but the mines usually worked only three days a week, and overall production declined. Colfax county produces a good grade coking coal, about half of which goes to steel mills in Colorado and California. Gallup, about 350 miles nearer to California markets, cannot take advantage of the California demand for high-grade industrial coal, since Gallup produces only sub-bituminous grades.

What happens to coal miners in the State when their jobs are finally gone? Some of them move to Eddy county and find jobs in the potash mines. This trend, which was noticeable two or three years ago, has resumed in recent months.

Starting in 1931 with a daily capacity of 200 tons, New Mexico's potash industry has grown to one of the most important of the State's economic activities, and its current capacity of 23,600 tons per day also makes it the principal source of the nation's potash. The industry expanded rapidly from the start, rising from 500,000 tons annually in 1935 to 3,035,549 tons in 1942. By 1950 the three companies that occupied the field before the war were producing 5,252,900 tons. Since that time expansion of the established companies and the introduction of two new producers has increased output even further.

In December 1951 Duval Sulphur and Potash Company began production and the State's output for the year reached 6,523,514 tons. In October of last year Southwest Potash came into production, and the monthly output of potash in the State rose above 700,000 tons for the first time. This gain was held for the remainder of the year.

with the result that total production was up 20 per cent from 1951 for a yearly total of 7,871,000 tons.

This rapid expansion of the potash industry has contributed markedly to New Mexico's mining economy in terms of new jobs, payroll, and production. In October of 1952 the industry employed some 3,065 workers, about 12 per cent more than two years earlier. Of this number 2,759 were classified as production workers, of which 1,658 worked in the mines and 1,101 were employed in the refineries. Total payroll of the industry in the first quarter of 1952 averaged $1,367,900 per month. By September this had risen to approximately $1,700,000 per month. The total value of the industry's yearly output is estimated at $38 million.

Since 94 per cent of the nation's output of potash goes into the production of fertilizer, expansion of the industry has been directly related to the extensive and expanding use of fertilizer, underwritten by a high level of farm income. What may happen to the market for potash if farm income should decline substantially is, however, difficult to predict. It is possible that the use of chemical fertilizers has become so well established in the economic pattern of farming that consumption of fertilizer (and potash) would not be seriously curtailed by declining farm income.

At any rate, New Mexico's potash industry is preparing for production substantially above the current levels. Some estimates place 1955 output at 2,100,000 tons of K_2O, the equivalent of 10,000,000 tons of mine ore. If this figure may be taken as a reasonable anticipation, it means that the industry's activity three years hence will be some 28 per cent above the current level. This is, indeed, a bright outlook, and it would bring considerable stimulation to Carlsbad and New Mexico.

Every month New Mexico produces enough oil to supply the United States for slightly less than one day. While this is a drop in the bucket of national oil production, it is nevertheless an important and valuable part of the State's economy. Last year seven New Mexico oil counties produced 58,362,110 barrels of crude oil, and as usual nearly all of this amount came from Lea and Eddy counties, with Lea county alone furnishing about 90 per cent of the State's production. Rio Arriba county rose from fifth place in January, to third in December, but even then its production was less than 10 per cent that of Eddy county.

Crude oil production is, of course, only part of the petroleum picture in New Mexico. When projected new pipelines to California are completed from both the Hobbs and San Juan areas, production of natural gas should increase dramatically. Meanwhile construction of the pipelines will do its part in holding up employment in the State, and continued oil exploration may lead to the discovery of entirely new producing areas.

P.M.S.

Agriculture

The value of improvements on New Mexico farms did not decline in 1952, but neither did it increase as in previous years. Farm prices declined, and farmers' purchasing power declined more drastically during the latter months of 1952, creating a particular economic threat to New Mexico because of the many farmers who rely primarily on cotton and cattle for their cash income. The price of livestock began falling in June 1951, and fell steadily during 1952. Also, by the end of 1952 the average price of cotton had fallen to one cent below price support level.

Otherwise, the situation of New Mexico farmers was little changed from 1951. The number of harvested acres of crops declined slightly. A few indications appeared of a trend toward diversified farming. Areas using streams and wells for irrigation were well supplied with water, with some exceptions noted below. The number of farms continued to decrease, while the size of individual farms increased. Mexican contract labor was imported in 1952 at the same rate as for the previous year. Wage rates for hired farm labor in the State

TABLE IV

INDEXES OF FARM PRICES AND INCOME
New Mexico--1951 & 1952

(Monthly Average 1947-49 = 100)

		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Year
Farm Prices														
All Prices	1951	136.9	144.8	148.3	149.7	145.9	144.1	137.2	135.5	135.9	135.5	132.8	130.3	139.7
	1952	129.3	132.8	133.4	132.4	125.5	120.3	115.9	116.6	115.9	110.3	106.6	102.4	120.1
Crops	1951	119.4	122.6	122.2	121.8	119.4	116.3	108.3	102.0	101.6	109.5	117.5	117.5	114.7
	1952	115.9	115.5	120.6	125.0	112.7	112.7	110.7	112.7	114.3	115.9	115.1	112.3	115.3
Livestock	1951	148.0	157.7	162.8	165.1	160.4	159.4	152.3	152.3	153.0	149.7	142.6	139.3	153.7
	1952	136.6	143.6	142.3	139.3	134.6	127.2	121.5	121.8	119.5	111.7	106.4	102.0	121.7
Farm Marketings - Cash Income														
Total	1951	87.6	53.8	60.7	91.1	114.6	81.5	56.7	55.1	77.9	409.5	266.0	138.7	124.4
	1952	124.5	81.2	87.0	92.6	68.9	57.6	55.8	55.7	112.4	428.1			
Crops	1951	135.5	79.8	38.7	10.4	7.6	25.2	47.8	51.6	62.4	220.3	289.0	251.6	101.7
	1952	230.4	121.1	70.4	54.3	45.7	33.1	45.0	44.9	91.1	341.3			
Livestock	1951	55.5	36.4	75.4	145.0	186.0	119.1	62.6	57.4	88.3	536.0	250.7	63.3	139.7
	1952	53.7	54.4	98.1	118.1	84.5	75.6	63.0	62.9	128.4	493.1			

Source: United States Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

reached a peak in 1951, and have held steady since then.

Falling farm prices, especially for livestock, have suddenly become news, and radio commentators are experts on the subject. A correct analysis of the livestock price situation should point out that the prices received by farmers began to drop as early as June 1951. Retail prices of meat in butcher shops did not start down until about a year later, and this retail decline was probably the reason that farm prices recently became "news."

Farmers lose income when the prices for their products decline, but last year they lost purchasing power even faster than they lost income, for the prices farmers had to pay out were at an all time high in 1952. Farmers have been hurt this way before. The rest of us hear more about it now because farmers are finding it harder to pay mortgages and other debts, and banks and businessmen are finding it harder to collect from farmers. But this is only the current result of a trend of declining farm purchasing power which began gradually in 1946.

Temporarily, farmers seem to have maintained their purchasing power by mortgaging their farms and by floating non-real estate farm loans. From 1946 to 1951 inclusive, New Mexico farmers increased their mortgage debt by 133 per cent, the third highest increase in the nation. Non-real estate farm loans rose in New Mexico by 136 per cent from 1945 through 1952. This rising farm debt probably means that young farmers and others who bought farms at high prices now find that interest and principal payments are a financial burden. Certainly, any further decline in farm prices will involve indebted farmers in increasingly serious difficulties.

Falling livestock prices, and the natural reluctance of farmers to sell livestock at low prices, reduced cash income from livestock by $26 million in 1952. The difference in livestock prices at the close of both years is shown in the accompanying table.

Except for cotton, crop acreage and production in the State did not change significantly in 1952. Cotton acreage decreased by 15,000 harvested acres from 1951; however, the yield per acre of cotton rose by 100 pounds. The price of cotton dropped an average of ten cents a pound from mid-December 1951 to mid-December 1952. Cottonseed prices dropped from $76 a ton at the end of 1951, to $68 a ton by mid-1952. This loss in cottonseed prices was regained later in 1952, however.

AVERAGE PRICES PER CWT RECEIVED BY NEW MEXICO FARMERS

	Mid-December 1951	Mid-December 1952	Per Cent Decrease Mid-December 1951-52
Hogs	$17.70	$16.50	6.8
Cattle	25.30	18.10	28.4
Veal Calves	30.50	21.50	29.5
Sheep	13.50	7.70	43.0
Lambs	28.00	18.00	35.7

Even with these price drops, cash farm income in New Mexico from cotton and cottonseed almost doubled in 1952. For the State as a whole this extra income from cotton made up the $26 million decline in income from livestock, and resulted in a slight increase in farm income in the State for all commodities in 1952.

Cotton and cottonseed sales made up 81 per cent of total cash farm income from crops. The gain in income from cotton was due partly to the heavier yields per acre, but most of it was due to the large proportion of the current and previous crops sold during 1952, as compared with 1951. Faced with falling cotton prices and an uncertain future, farmers were eager to turn their current production into clear cash, unencumbered by government loans, and the same held true for cotton produced in earlier years and warehoused on loan.

Water for agricultural production was plentiful in most areas of New Mexico. In the southeastern part of the State a combination of streams and wells provided the necessary amounts of water. The Rio Grande Conservancy District reports that there was no shortage of water in the irrigated lands of the Rio Grande watershed. Northeastern

TABLE V

INDEXES OF LIVESTOCK PRICES
New Mexico--1951 & 1952

(Monthly Average 1947-49 = 100)

		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Hogs	1951	87.9	100.7	94.1	91.0	88.3	90.5	92.8	95.0	88.3	89.2	79.9	78.2
	1952	77.3	76.4	76.4	74.2	83.5	86.6	91.9	94.1	86.1	86.1	75.5	72.9
Cattle	1951	138.5	143.6	151.3	156.4	151.3	152.6	147.7	151.3	153.8	148.7	138.5	135.9
	1952	135.9	146.2	146.2	141.0	135.9	125.6	115.4	115.4	114.4	105.1	97.4	92.8
Veal Calves	1951	150.7	157.8	162.5	164.9	157.8	162.5	159.7	160.2	164.9	160.2	150.7	143.7
	1952	144.6	153.1	150.7	146.0	141.3	141.3	136.6	135.7	131.9	115.4	111.6	101.3
Sheep	1951	171.4	216.7	223.4	216.7	183.2	179.1	180.9	177.3	177.3	177.3	166.5	159.6
	1952	159.6	159.6	159.6	171.4	153.7	118.2	100.5	102.8	102.8	100.5	94.6	91.0
Lambs	1951	139.7	151.7	156.6	151.7	146.9	144.5	142.1	141.6	147.9	149.3	146.9	139.7
	1952	137.3	125.2	118.0	126.2	120.4	106.0	110.8	110.8	98.7	96.3	86.7	86.7

Source: Original data from Bureau of Agricultural Economics, Las Cruces, New Mexico.

TABLE VI

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION IN NEW MEXICO
1952 Compared with 1951 and 1941-1950 Average

		Production (000)	Price (dollars)	Value (000)
Cotton Lint (300 lb. bales)	1941-1950	157		
	1951	273	.432*	$ 58,939
	1952	325	.414*	67,202
All Hay (tons)	1941-1950	435		
	1951	418	39.30	16,427
	1952	455	40.00	18,200
Cotton Seed (tons)	1941-1950	63		
	1951	116	77.20	8,955
	1952	133	76.00	10,108
Grain Sorghums (bu.)	1941-1950	4,311		
	1951	3,410	1.33	4,535
	1952	903	1.65	1,490
Sorghum Forage (tons)	1941-1950	210		
	1951	160	30.00	4,800
	1952	249	30.00	7,470
Corn (bu.)	1941-1950	2,045		
	1951	1,116	2.05	2,288
	1952	1,120	1.95	2,184
Broomcorn (tons)	1941-1950	6.3		
	1951	4.2	440.00	1,848
	1952	3.0	435.00	1,305
Winter Wheat (bu.)	1941-1950	3,800		
	1951	786	2.14	1,682
	1952	627	2.15	1,348
Apples (bu.)	1941-1950	699		
	1951	825	2.25	1,616
	1952	693	2.60	1,802
Dry Beans (100 lb. bags)	1941-1950	584		
	1951	120	6.80	775
	1952	136	7.60	980
Alfalfa Seed (bu.)	1941-1950	1,297		
	1951	1,600	36.00	576
	1952	1,600	32.00	512
Peanuts (lbs.)	1941-1950	8,717		
	1951	6,020	.097	584
	1952	5,250	.013	672
Barley (bu.)	1941-1950	610		
	1951	430	1.32	568
	1952	528	1.50	792
Oats (bu.)	1941-1950	893		
	1951	518	1.07	554
	1952	594	1.05	624
Other (1)	1951			3,845
	1952			3,358
Total All Crops (2)	1951			83,693
	1952			109,229

*Price per pound
(1) Includes spring wheat, rye, potatoes, peaches, and truck crops.
(2) Includes only crops shown above.
Source: Bureau of Agricultural Economics, Las Cruces, New Mexico.

areas, especially Mora county, were not as fortunate. Lack of water during the growing season there, coupled with small farm holdings, have made the Mora area economically depressed. The lack of water storage facilities and wasteful methods of irrigation are the basic reasons for the water shortage in northeastern New Mexico during the growing season.

Farm labor in New Mexico was in short supply in 1952, but only in the cotton areas of the State. At the peak of the cotton harvest the southeastern part of the State imported 23,000 Mexican contract laborers. In parts of northeastern and northwestern New Mexico, income from agriculture was so small that some operators had to migrate to the beet fields and truck crop areas of Colorado, and to the sheep camps in Wyoming and Montana.

Wage rates in New Mexico were slightly higher than the United States average, but much lower than in any of the other Mountain States.[1] In 1951, New Mexico farm laborers received an average of $118 per month and room and board. In the same year the average for the Mountain States was $145. The average rates for picking 100 pounds of seed cotton remained $2.50 in New Mexico during the 1950-51-52 seasons. By 1952 this rate was the lowest paid throughout the states that harvest cotton, and averaged 50 cents below the national average. In both 1950 and 1951 other states showed an increase in the rates paid for picking cotton, but New Mexico's rates remained the same.

V.T.X.

Electric Power Production

New Mexico power plants produced electricity at an average monthly rate of 136 million kilowatt-hours in 1952, an increase of 15 per cent over the average monthly output of 1951. This is fairly typical of the heavy gains in power use in the State since the end of the war.

As consumption of electricity has increased, the tendency of New Mexico and the other Mountain States to use more current in summer has become stronger. August is customarily the month of peak electricity output in this region, although in 1951 New Mexico's peak month was July. The State consumed 157,726 kilowatt-hours in August 1952, 34 per cent more than in February, the lowest month. Probably a quarter of this gain was due to the steady long-term expansion of power use in the State; the rest might be termed a true August peak in relation to the February valley.

This peak is particularly interesting because it runs counter to the situation for the nation as a whole, which consumes more electricity in winter than in summer. Heavy-duty electric irrigation pumps and other farm uses make the strongest summer-season demands on the State's power systems. A community of 300 farms, using 25 horsepower per farm for pumping, will increase the load on the power system as much as 9,000 kilowatts during the period of greatest demand for water, and will pump in some degree for five to six months of the year. By contrast, the load on the entire Santa Fe-Albuquerque system of Public Service Company of New Mexico runs only about 5,000 to 6,000 kilowatts higher in December than in the summer.

The use of power in New Mexico cities thus follows the national pattern, and the yearly curve of power consumption in the State does show a secondary peak in winter, caused by the demand in cities for domestic, civic, and commercial holiday-season use, during the period of shortest daylight. Moreover, cities use power throughout the year, but pumping and other summer uses such as air conditioning are entirely shut off during winter. In other words, city use adds somewhat to the high summer peak, but irrigation pumping contributes not at all to power use during winter. Thus these contrasting patterns of use accentuate the summer

1. Montana, Idaho, Wyoming, Colorado, Arizona, Utah, and Nevada.

TABLE VII

INDEXES OF ELECTRIC POWER PRODUCTION
New Mexico--1950, 1951, & 1952

(Monthly Average 1947-49 = 100)

	1950	1951	1952
Jan	101.2	132.1	139.4
Feb	95.6	118.7	133.7
Mar	114.6	131.4	149.0
Apr	111.8	130.6	151.3
May	118.9	130.5	149.3
June	127.7	134.2	159.9
July	123.6	145.0	163.3
Aug	136.7	141.6	179.6
Sept	119.6	137.5	170.1
Oct	122.7	141.7	153.5
Nov	124.0	136.2	154.3
Dec	126.5	140.6	156.1
Year	118.6	135.0	155.0

Source: Bureau of Business Research based on reports of the Federal Power Commission.

peak and late winter low which characterizes power output in New Mexico.

Since most of the heavy summer demand for electricity is agricultural, the strong August peak reflects the rapid pace of farm electrification in the State. Nearly all of this farm use of electricity has been made possible by REA cooperatives. As of June 30, 1952, the seventeen REA cooperatives in the State operated 16,643 miles of power line, serving 35,434 customers. Eleven of these cooperatives have been formed since the war, and their initial expansion has been rapid. However, some REA cooperatives such as those serving San Miguel and Mora counties find they have now extended service to most rural customers who are able to pay for it, while many farms, mostly small subsistence units with extremely low yearly cash income, are within the cooperative area but cannot afford electrical service. This problem of small farmers who are "on the line" but unable to buy power is a challenge to the State. If their standard of living is raised, subsistence farmers in the State will constitute an additional market for goods and services. The immediate question is whether electricity can be successfully used on very small farms to increase cash farm income.

In wetter sections of the country, where hydroelectric plants of large size are in operation, coal or gas burning steam generation plants are considered stand-by or supplementary sources of electrical power. Again, New Mexico reverses the situation. Our water supply is so uncertain, and our few hydro plants such as those at Conchas Dam and Elephant Butte, are necessarily so small, that water-generated electricity in the State is considered a supplementary source of power.

While the use of fuel oil in electric power production is increasing far more rapidly in the Mountain States than in the nation, it is actually declining in New Mexico. Coal and natural gas are hence the major fuels used in the State to produce electricity, and in keeping with the national pattern New Mexico uses more coal for this purpose in winter, more natural gas in summer. However, these fluctuations in demand for the two fuels are smaller in New Mexico than in neighboring states.

Within the Mountain States, New Mexico in late summer uses 9 per cent of all coal burned in the region for electric power generation, and 25 per cent of the natural gas. In winter we burn only 5 per cent of all coal used in the Mountain States, even though our absolute consumption of coal rises. Likewise, in winter, even though we use less natural gas than in summer, our share of the regional usage of gas amounts to 37 per cent, because the use of natural gas drops more drastically in other Mountain States.

These figures evidently reflect the great advantage the State enjoys in respect to natural gas, which puts coal in an extremely poor competitive position here. New Mexico also has warmer winters than most other Mountain States, with relatively less demand for gas for heating in winter. Furthermore, we have few industries standing by ready to absorb the gas dump load in summer. These three factors seem to make for higher relative use of natural gas in power generation in New Mexico throughout the year, and for less seasonal fluctuation between gas and coal as desired fuels for power plants, compared with the Mountain States as a whole.

P.M.S.

Construction

The building and construction industry continued to prosper in New Mexico in 1952 even though it operated at somewhat lower levels than in 1951. This conclusion may not be readily apparent from the data appearing in Table VIII since these indexes show that building permits in 1952 ran considerably ahead of 1951 and that construction sales and sales of building materials dealers for the first seven months of the year were above those of the same months in the previous year. However, employment in construction lagged behind 1951 throughout the entire year.

The apparent inconsistency in the available figures appears to be due to the opposite trends in the two principal segments of construction—public and private. While private construction, particularly that portion covered by building permits, was at record high levels during most of the year, there was a sharp contraction of public construction. The decline in the latter was sufficient to offset the increased activity provided by the somewhat larger volume of private construction. The result of these shifts in construction activity was a lower level of employment in the industry, at least during the period of transition.

Early in 1952 the value of building permits began an upward climb which continued, with few exceptions, through the year. By December they had reached their highest point since December of 1950. This increase over the previous year was largely because New Mexicans built new homes at a pace which greatly exceeded that of the nation.

TABLE VIII

INDEXES OF CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY
New Mexico--1951 & 1952

(Monthly Average 1947-49 = 100)

		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Year
Building Permits	1951	153.4	123.8	111.3	99.6	111.7	110.0	138.0	162.2	106.1	192.1	135.5	82.8	127.2
	1952	123.0	168.0	104.2	132.8	137.3	162.2	226.9	149.8	185.8	218.7	148.9	297.2	171.2
Construction Sales	1951	125.7	135.5	175.8	186.5	146.8	161.1	176.2	181.1	265.7	131.2	209.7	270.8	180.5
	1952*	178.3	206.0	205.9	245.6	233.8	236.6	351.0						
Building Materials Sales	1951	108.1	115.4	113.2	121.7	118.8	109.5	117.1	136.7	127.8	83.3	111.3	159.2	118.5
	1952*	102.5	107.1	102.6	128.5	129.0	122.1	130.9						
Shipments of Portland Cement	1951	129.0	121.3	173.1	180.7	174.9	183.4	171.3	131.2	120.2	135.7	110.2	93.6	143.7
	1952	117.5	112.0	123.5	140.9	149.7	158.7	146.8	140.4	145.0	155.5	125.8	109.1	135.4
Employment	1951	131.4	124.3	133.0	129.9	132.2	133.0	132.2	129.9	125.1	118.8	110.9	106.1	125.6
	1952	101.4	104.5	106.9	106.9	106.1	110.1	102.3	116.4	120.4	110.1	102.1	96.6	107.9

* Data for the last five months of 1952 are not available.

Source: Bureau of Business Research based on reports of city building inspectors, the New Mexico Bureau of Revenue, the New Mexico Employment Security Commission, and the United States Bureau of Mines.

While the volume of permits issued for new urban dwelling units decreased nationally, New Mexico showed an increase of 42 per cent over 1951 in the first ten months of last year, an increase exceeded only by Kansas with a gain of 43 per cent. In the rapidly growing Mountain States, New Mexico led in the rate of increase over 1951 as is shown in the following tabulation of number of building permits for urban dwelling units compiled by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

	First ten months of 1951	1952	Per Cent Change
New Mexico	3,850	5,470	+42.1
Arizona	2,319	1,681	—27.5
Colorado	7,744	8,768	+13.2
Idaho	1,252	1,023	— 1.8
Montana	1,192	1,316	+10.4
Nevada	528	689	+30.5
Utah	2,678	2,513	— 0.6
Wyoming	784	789	+ 0.6
Mountain States	20,347	22,249	+ 9.3

From the limited data we have available, it appears that other private construction of types, and in areas, not requiring building permits also increased. If this was true, then all of the decline in overall construction activity occurred in public construction not subject to building permits. This includes highways, public and school buildings in areas not subject to permit, construction on federal reservations, sewers, and other types of improvements. In the past few years, public works of these types have accounted for a considerable proportion of the total construction in the State.

The value of new public construction in New Mexico during the first three quarters of 1952 was down nearly 10 per cent from the preceding year as is shown by the following figures compiled by the Department of Commerce. In part, this decline was due to curtailment of federally financed construction because of the completion of some projects and restriction of new projects, at least temporarily. The decrease was not confined to federal government projects, however. While there was a 7 per cent decrease in the value of contracts awarded by the federal government in the first nine months of the year, the value of contracts awarded by the State and by local governments during the first ten months of the year was 14 per cent below 1951, as can be seen from the following figures compiled by the Department of Commerce.

	Millions of dollars of new public construction in 1951	1952	Per Cent Change
First quarter	22.3	20.9	— 6.2
Second quarter	24.3	23.6	— 2.9
Third quarter	26.6	22.0	—17.3
Fourth quarter	28.1	na	—
Total—first three quarters	73.2	66.5	— 9.2

	Thousands of dollars of contracts awarded for new public construction in New Mexico during— 1951	1952	Per Cent Change
Total	$23,332	$20,006	— 14.3
Residential	573	406	— 29.2
Educational	5,918	4,095	— 30.8
Utilities	1,085	280	— 74.2
Highways	11,759	13,801	+ 17.4
Sewerage	703	837	+ 19.1
Water	22	166	+654.5
Other Non-residential	3,120	284	— 90.9
All other	152	137	— 9.9

The shift in the emphasis in construction activity from public to private had an adverse effect on employment in the industry. Average monthly employment of 16,300 workers in 1951 dropped to 14,000 in 1952. It appears, therefore, that private construction was not quite able to fill the gap created by the curtailment of public construction, at least during 1952.

It may be, of course, that the 14 per cent decline in construction employment is largely temporary and attributable to transitional adjustments by contractors. The increased volume of building permits for the last few months suggests that the unemployment caused by the cut in public construction may be absorbed by the private sector of the construction industry during 1953.

V.T.X.

TABLE IX

INDEXES OF RETAIL ACTIVITY
New Mexico--1951 & 1952

(Monthly Average 1947-49 = 100)

		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Year
Total Retail Sales	1951	112.8	124.9	108.7	121.0	128.8	121.1	131.2	126.2	127.7	108.0	124.1	195.2	127.5
	1952*	111.6	116.8	118.2	143.7	143.2	138.6	146.9						
Apparel Sales	1951	86.0	130.5	83.8	106.6	106.3	113.4	109.9	102.4	101.0	85.1	112.1	243.0	115.0
	1952*	98.6	99.4	115.6	133.4	136.8	118.8	121.2						
Automotive Sales	1951	140.3	122.4	123.1	117.4	134.1	127.9	128.5	127.3	116.1	96.0	118.8	171.4	127.1
	1952*	103.7	119.8	114.3	129.7	139.0	141.9	133.9						
Food Store Sales	1951	118.7	131.1	117.8	146.9	111.9	125.4	145.8	102.9	158.8	107.8	140.9	182.5	132.6
	1952*	121.5	127.2	113.1	177.3	160.6	135.4	157.7						
Eating Places Sales	1951	92.2	103.2	100.9	118.5	112.8	129.9	140.5	163.2	135.3	89.4	115.4	183.4	123.7
	1952*	125.1	119.0	130.7	143.2	144.9	153.8	178.2						
Public Lodgings Sales	1951	110.5	112.8	118.6	103.9	104.5	123.1	148.9	163.4	132.2	117.9	125.6	182.6	128.7
	1952*	102.9	111.3	126.4	128.4	159.6	165.3	195.3						
Furniture and Appliance Sales	1951	93.9	145.7	117.8	148.6	155.2	120.7	168.7	127.8	108.5	131.5	121.4	193.5	136.8
	1952*	104.2	104.1	112.7	116.0	139.3	135.1	114.1						
Building Material Sales	1951	108.1	115.4	113.2	121.7	118.8	109.5	117.1	136.7	127.8	83.3	111.3	159.2	118.5
	1952*	102.5	107.1	102.6	128.5	129.0	122.1	130.9						
Other Retail Sales	1951	92.2	121.4	88.9	113.3	126.4	115.7	121.9	116.7	122.9	136.8	125.1	209.3	124.2
	1952*	118.3	118.8	123.5	145.0	149.6	140.9	151.4						
Employment	1951	121.6	121.2	124.1	126.2	128.3	129.9	130.4	130.8	132.0	129.5	131.2	137.8	128.6
	1952	127.9	128.3	128.7	131.6	130.8	131.2	132.0	132.4	134.9	135.8	136.2	142.4	132.7

* Data for the last five months of 1952 are not available.

Source: Bureau of Business Research based on reports of the New Mexico Bureau of Revenue and the New Mexico Employment Security Commission.

Trade

This year the Bureau of Business Research is somewhat in the position of a department store which has had its main floor torn up in order to remodel and modernize. Business may suffer during the remodeling, but it is hoped that the eventual improvements will more than make up for this temporary loss. The remodeling which is upsetting us is taking place not in the Bureau, but in the School Tax Division of the New Mexico Bureau of Revenue, where statistical procedures are being adapted to IBM machines. As a result, data on wholesale, retail, and service trade are available only for the first seven months of 1952. However, when the process has been completed in the Bureau of Revenue, a great deal of previously unrecorded data will be available for analysis and inclusion in future issues of NEW MEXICO BUSINESS.

In the meantime, "business as usual during alterations." The available data shown in Table IX indicate that retail activity, at least in the first half of 1952, was as good as, or better than, in 1951. The detailed breakdown given in Table IX shows that apparel sales, food store sales, eating place sales, public lodging sales, and "other retail" sales were greater in 1952 than in 1951. Automotive sales were below those of 1951, primarily because dealers in low-priced new cars could not get enough cars to supply all their potential market during the year. The decline in construction in 1952 was reflected in a decline in building material sales, and probably accounted for the leveling off of sales of furniture and appliances.

Wholesale sales for January and February of 1952 were far below those of the corresponding months of 1951. A similar development in retail trade is shown in Table IX. Later months of 1952 in both fields appear to compare favorably with 1951.

The level of activity in the service trades for the first seven months of 1952 was well above 1951. Table XI reflects the continued increase of sales in amusements and in personal and professional services.

Some judgments about the course of trade during the last five months of 1952 are possible on the basis of related business information. Employment

TABLE X

INDEXES OF WHOLESALE TRADE
New Mexico--1951 & 1952

(Monthly Average 1947-49 = 100)

	SALES		EMPLOYMENT	
	1951	1952*	1951	1952
Jan	134.8	100.3	98.5	105.4
Feb	137.8	103.7	98.5	105.4
Mar	137.5	125.5	98.5	107.2
Apr	167.3	139.4	96.8	108.9
May	123.4	112.3	98.5	110.6
June	142.0	130.2	100.3	115.8
July	162.9	240.2	100.3	112.4
Aug	144.0		102.0	112.4
Sept	130.1		102.0	107.2
Oct	93.7		102.0	108.9
Nov	110.4		103.7	108.9
Dec	158.0		103.7	110.6
Year	136.8		100.4	109.5

* Data for the last five months of 1952 are not available.

Source: Bureau of Business Research based on reports of the New Mexico Bureau of Revenue and the New Mexico Employment Security Commission.

TABLE XI

INDEXES OF SERVICE ACTIVITIES
New Mexico--1951 & 1952

(Monthly Average 1947-49 = 100)

		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept.	Oct	Nov	Dec	Year
Amusements Sales	1951	106.9	118.9	97.5	100.9	125.3	123.9	120.3	128.9	131.0	92.8	110.2	131.6	115.7
	1952*	113.3	97.5	120.2	157.3	139.8	114.9	172.5						
Sales of Personal & Professional Services	1951	90.7	103.3	123.1	115.1	137.1	116.3	122.9	130.1	124.0	101.0	116.2	254.5	127.9
	1952*	147.6	182.4	151.0	156.8	159.2	143.4	160.5						
Employment	1951	104.1	105.7	105.7	107.3	108.9	113.7	116.9	115.3	112.1	109.9	107.3	108.9	109.6
	1952	105.7	108.9	110.5	112.1	115.3	118.5	121.7	123.3	123.3	120.1	118.5	118.5	116.4

* Data for the last five months of 1952 are not available.

Source: Bureau of Business Research based on reports of the New Mexico Bureau of Revenue and the New Mexico Employment Security Commission.

figures, for example, are sometimes more useful than sales figures in detecting the course of business, since they do not reflect inflationary price trends. However, they are not available in as great detail as are the sales indexes.

In regard to retail activity (Table IX), only total retail employment is available. Thus an analysis of the activity in various types of retail stores is not possible. Total employment in retail trade for each month of 1952 was greater than for the corresponding months of 1951, although the differences in each case are small. It can be safely assumed that retail trade activity for the last five months of 1952 was as great as in 1951; in fact from employment figures it appears to have been slightly higher.

Regarding wholesale trade, much the same is true; employment in 1952 was greater than in 1951, both on an annual basis and for each month of the year. In this case 1952 employment was 9 per cent greater than in 1951, a fairly substantial difference reflecting greater activity during last year. Service activities reflect much the same conditions as wholesale trade. Table XI shows employment in this field in 1952 to be above that of 1951 for each month of the year, and for the year as a whole it was approximately 7 per cent greater in 1952 than in 1951.

Employment data show that all branches of trade and services were either as active or more active in 1952 than they were in 1951. This is confirmed by indexes of financial activity. There is considerable correlation, for example, between sales and debits to individual accounts. Buyers of goods at retail or at wholesale generally pay by check, thus increasing the volume of bank debits. In the case of larger purchases the buyer frequently has to borrow from the bank, again, however, paying by check. This type of transaction increases both the volume of bank debits and the volume of loans and discounts. Bank debits to individual accounts and bank loans and discounts in New Mexico (Table XV) both show an increase in 1952 over 1951, fairly clear evidence of a rise in the volume of trade.

M.B.

TABLE XII

INDEXES OF RETAIL FOOD PRICES IN ALBUQUERQUE
New Mexico--1951 & 1952

(September 1949 = 100)

	1951	1952	Per Cent Change 1951 to 1952
Jan	106.7	112.3	5.2
Feb	106.4	109.3	2.7
Mar	108.1	109.8	1.6
Apr	107.0	111.0	3.7
May	107.5	110.5	2.8
June	106.4	111.7	5.0
July	106.3	112.1	5.5
Aug	105.9	112.0	5.8
Sept	106.4	110.2	3.6
Oct	106.9	110.0	2.9
Nov	108.3	110.5	2.0
Dec	110.9	108.7	-2.0

Source: Bureau of Business Research.

Employment

All-time peak employment in New Mexico was reached during last September when 173,100 persons drew wages in nonagricultural jobs. This was a gain of 9,400 over the previous yearly peak employment during December 1951. Average monthly employment in 1952 was 167,000, a gain of 7,400 over the average monthly employment of 1951.

Table XIV shows the volume of employment month by month for the eight major industries of the State, and their subdivisions. Total employment for each month of 1952 was greater than for the corresponding months of 1951. This was also true for each industrial category, with the exception of construction.

The gains in employment, however, were far from uniform. As Table XIII shows, the greatest gain was in mining jobs, both in numbers and percentagewise. Mining employed an average of 2,500 more people in 1952 than in 1951, a gain of 20 per cent. Construction, on the other hand, provided 2,200 fewer jobs on the average than in 1951, a loss of 14 per cent. These were the extremes. All other industries gained, but in lesser degree than mining.

Finance employed 10 per cent more workers in 1952 than in 1951, which gain, although substan-

tial, represented only 500 new jobs. Manufacturing gained 9 per cent, providing 1,300 more jobs; transportation gained 7 per cent, employing 1,250 more people; government service expanded by 5 per cent, taking on 1,900 more employees; trade gained 4 per cent, providing 1,500 more jobs; and services gained 3 per cent, employing 650 more people.

These employment figures are worth careful consideration. The State's economy can be best understood through its employment pattern, because trade, production, and consumption depend largely upon jobs and income.

Decline of employment in the construction industry represents a leveling-off of the construction boom of 1948-50. This trend started in 1951 with a decline of employment in that year of 1 per cent. The decline of 14 per cent in 1952 marked an acceleration in the downward trend. A contributory cause of this decline was the apparent reduction in federal government expenditures for construction for atomic weapons and guided missiles development in the State. Many of these projects were completed before 1952, and evidently few new projects were started during the past year. Decline in government construction may be an indication of general slackening in the rate of expansion of government activities in New Mexico.

While postwar economic development in New Mexico has generally surpassed that of the rest of the country, nearly all of our gains have been due to continuously expanding federal expenditures. Elsewhere such expenditures, while important, have been accompanied by a far higher rate of private industrial development than the State has enjoyed. Hence it is of crucial interest to New Mexico whether federal spending here continues to expand. In this connection it is important to note that direct government jobs increased only 5 per cent in 1952, while in 1951 they increased 8 per cent. Nearly a thousand fewer employees were added to the federal payroll in New Mexico in 1952 than in 1951.

Petroleum exploration and drilling accounted for most of the 2,500 new jobs in mining. The great need for oil in civilian and defense uses has been aggravated by the recent loss of much of the Near Eastern oil supply by the Western Powers. The resulting high price of oil, and the favorable tax treatment of oil development costs, have encouraged oil activity in the State, with the accompanying rise in employment during the year.

Defense needs maintained a high demand for, and employment in, copper mining in the State, and contributed to the continued expansion of potash mining. Coal mining, however, declined further in New Mexico in 1952, due to continued loss of markets to natural gas and oil in domestic and industrial use, and to continuing dieselization of the railroads.

In manufacturing, employment in lumber and wood products declined in 1952 because of the reduced demand for these materials, due partly to the decline in construction. Employment in the food manufacturing industries and the chemical industry (mostly potash refining) increased slightly. The increased demand for potash reflects the continued world-wide need for fertilizer to increase agricultural production.

The largest employment gain in all manufacturing categories was in the "other manufacturing" group, made up of workers in ordnance and other industries supplying goods directly or indirectly to the government. Hence, it appears that most of the gain in manufacturing jobs in the State has depended on federal government spending, reflecting the pattern of the State's economy as a whole.

Railroad employment declined by 200 jobs, largely because fewer workers are needed to service and repair the diesel locomotives now in use in the State. Other transportation and utilities gained jobs as they extended service to areas newly built-up during the State's recent economic expansion.

Employment gains in trade also reflect this catching-up process. New residential areas in the larger cities and towns of the State need new retail outlets. As these outlets multiply they create a demand for new and expanded wholesale outlets. Wholesale expansion evidently lags slightly behind retail expansion, for Table XIII shows that while retail outlets increased employment by 3 per cent in 1952, wholesaling jobs gained 9 per cent, reflecting previous rapid gains in retailing.

The most striking feature of postwar employment in New Mexico is the important role of government, both direct and indirect, in the economy of the State.

The direct role of government is shown in comparative employment gains for 1951 and 1952. A total of 9,200 new jobs were created in the State in 1951, but only 7,400 new jobs in 1952. Government employment followed a similar pattern, with

TABLE XIII

AVERAGE MONTHLY EMPLOYMENT IN NONAGRICULTURAL ESTABLISHMENTS
New Mexico--1951 & 1952

	1951	1952	Gain or Loss Total	Per Cent
All Industries	159,916	167,338	7,422	4.6
Mining	12,375	14,883	2,508	20.3
Metal	3,142	3,542	400	12.7
Coal	833	758	- 75	- 9.0
Petroleum	6,300	8,183	1,883	29.9
Non-Metallic	2,100	2,400	300	14.3
Manufacturing	14,167	15,483	1,316	9.3
Lumber and Wood	2,675	2,292	- 383	-14.3
Food	2,067	2,108	41	2.0
Chemicals	1,817	1,925	108	5.9
Other	7,608	9,158	1,550	20.4
Transportation & Utilities	17,450	18,716	1,266	7.3
Railroads	7,858	7,658	- 200	2.5
Transportation (except RR)	3,717	3,975	258	6.9
Utilities	5,875	7,083	1,208	20.6
Trade	36,783	38,291	1,508	4.1
Wholesale	5,808	6,333	525	9.0
Retail	30,975	31,958	983	3.2
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	4,825	5,333	508	10.5
Services	22,241	22,899	658	3.0
Hotels	3,183	3,283	100	3.1
Personal Services	3,658	3,983	325	8.9
Other	15,400	15,633	233	1.5
Construction	15,858	13,625	-2,233	-14.1
Government	36,217	38,108	1,891	5.2

Source: Bureau of Business Research based on reports of the New Mexico Employment Security Commission.

an increase in both years, but that of 1952 was smaller by 900 jobs. Thus, half of the slackening of employment gains in 1952 was due to a lower rate of government hiring.

Indirectly, government spending influences employment in mining, manufacturing, and construction. Government price supports at least partially ensure the continued economic well-being of the State's farmers. Government policy, direct or indirect, thus underwrites the jobs of all but a small

TABLE XIV

EMPLOYEES IN NONAGRICULTURAL ESTABLISHMENTS
New Mexico--1951 & 1952

		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Total	1951	153,400	153,200	156,600	157,600	159,500	162,300	162,100	163,200	163,600	162,400	161,400	163,700
	1952	160,100	160,800	162,400	163,400	165,100	168,200	168,600	169,700	173,100	172,100	171,200	173,400
Manufacturing	1951	12,500	12,800	13,300	13,900	14,300	14,700	14,500	14,700	14,700	15,100	14,900	14,600
	1952	14,300	14,300	14,600	14,700	15,000	15,600	15,700	16,100	16,400	16,500	16,500	16,100
Lumber and Wood Products	1951	2,400	2,400	2,600	2,900	3,000	3,100	3,000	2,900	2,800	2,700	2,300	2,000
	1952	1,900	1,900	1,900	2,100	2,200	2,400	2,400	2,500	2,700	2,600	2,500	2,400
Food Products	1951	1,900	1,900	1,900	2,000	2,000	2,100	2,200	2,300	2,300	2,100	2,100	2,000
	1952	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,100	2,200	2,200	2,200	2,100	2,200	2,200	2,100
Chemicals	1951	1,600	1,600	1,600	1,800	1,800	1,800	1,800	1,800	1,800	2,000	2,100	2,100
	1952	2,000	1,900	1,900	1,900	1,900	1,900	1,900	2,000	2,000	1,900	1,900	1,900
Other Manufacturing	1951	6,600	6,900	7,200	7,200	7,500	7,700	7,500	7,700	7,800	8,300	8,400	8,500
	1952	8,400	8,500	8,800	8,700	8,800	9,100	9,200	9,400	9,600	9,800	9,900	9,700
Mining	1951	11,200	11,500	11,600	11,500	11,600	12,400	12,400	12,900	13,100	13,400	13,300	13,600
	1952	14,300	14,200	14,500	14,500	14,900	15,200	15,100	15,000	15,200	15,200	15,200	15,300
Metal	1951	2,900	3,000	3,100	3,100	3,100	3,200	3,200	3,300	3,200	3,200	3,200	3,200
	1952	3,400	3,500	3,500	3,500	3,600	3,600	3,600	3,600	3,600	3,600	3,500	3,500
Coal	1951	900	900	900	900	800	900	700	800	800	800	800	800
	1952	900	800	800	800	800	800	700	700	700	700	700	700
Petroleum	1951	5,300	5,400	5,400	5,500	5,700	6,200	6,400	6,700	7,000	7,300	7,200	7,500
	1952	7,900	7,700	7,900	7,800	8,100	8,400	8,400	8,300	8,400	8,400	8,400	8,500
Non-Metallic (except coal)	1951	2,100	2,200	2,200	2,000	2,000	2,100	2,100	2,100	2,100	2,100	2,100	2,100
	1952	2,100	2,200	2,300	2,400	2,400	2,400	2,400	2,400	2,500	2,500	2,600	2,600
Transportation and Utilities	1951	16,800	16,700	17,000	17,000	16,900	17,500	17,800	17,900	17,700	18,000	18,100	18,000
	1952	18,000	18,100	18,100	18,000	18,300	19,200	18,900	18,800	18,800	19,300	19,500	19,700
Railroads	1951	7,700	7,600	7,800	7,900	7,900	8,100	8,100	8,100	7,900	7,800	7,800	7,600
	1952	7,400	7,400	7,400	7,500	7,700	7,900	7,900	7,700	7,700	7,700	7,800	7,800
Transportation (except railroads)	1951	3,600	3,500	3,600	3,600	3,600	3,600	3,600	3,700	3,800	4,000	4,000	4,000
	1952	3,900	3,900	4,000	3,900	3,900	4,000	4,000	4,000	3,900	4,000	4,100	4,100
Utilities	1951	5,500	5,600	5,600	5,500	5,400	5,800	6,100	6,100	6,000	6,200	6,300	6,400
	1952	6,700	6,700	6,700	6,800	6,700	7,300	7,000	7,100	7,200	7,600	7,600	7,800
Trade	1951	35,000	34,900	35,600	36,000	36,600	37,100	37,200	37,400	37,700	37,100	37,600	39,200
	1952	36,900	37,000	37,200	38,000	37,900	38,300	38,300	38,400	38,700	39,000	39,100	40,700
Wholesale	1951	5,700	5,700	5,700	5,600	5,700	5,800	5,800	5,900	5,900	5,900	6,000	6,000
	1952	6,100	6,100	6,200	6,300	6,400	6,700	6,500	6,500	6,200	6,300	6,300	6,400
Retail	1951	29,300	29,200	29,900	30,400	30,900	31,300	31,400	31,500	31,800	31,200	31,600	33,200
	1952	30,800	30,900	31,000	31,700	31,500	31,600	31,800	31,900	32,500	32,700	32,800	34,300
Finance, Insurance and Real Estate	1951	5,000	5,100	5,000	4,900	4,800	4,800	4,700	4,600	4,500	4,600	4,900	5,000
	1952	5,100	5,200	5,100	5,100	5,200	5,200	5,300	5,300	5,500	5,600	5,600	5,800
Service and Miscellaneous	1951	21,400	21,600	21,900	22,300	22,600	23,000	22,800	23,000	22,800	22,000	21,700	21,800
	1952	21,600	21,900	22,200	22,300	22,600	23,100	23,400	23,800	23,900	23,400	23,400	23,200
Hotels	1951	2,900	3,000	3,000	3,100	3,200	3,400	3,600	3,600	3,300	3,100	3,000	3,000
	1952	2,800	3,000	3,100	3,200	3,300	3,300	3,500	3,600	3,600	3,400	3,300	3,300
Personal Services	1951	3,600	3,600	3,600	3,600	3,600	3,700	3,700	3,600	3,700	3,700	3,700	3,800
	1952	3,800	3,800	3,800	3,800	3,900	4,100	4,100	4,100	4,100	4,100	4,100	4,100
Other	1951	14,900	15,000	15,300	15,600	15,800	15,900	15,500	15,800	15,800	15,200	15,000	15,000
	1952	15,000	15,100	15,300	15,300	15,400	15,700	15,800	16,100	16,200	15,900	16,000	15,800
Construction	1951	16,600	15,700	16,800	16,400	16,700	16,800	16,700	16,400	15,800	15,000	14,000	13,400
	1952	12,800	13,200	13,500	13,500	13,400	13,900	14,300	14,700	15,200	13,900	12,900	12,200
Government	1951	34,900	34,900	35,400	35,600	36,000	36,000	36,000	36,300	37,300	37,200	36,900	38,100
	1952	37,100	37,000	37,200	37,300	37,800	37,700	37,600	37,600	39,400	39,200	39,000	40,400

Note: All figures obtained from estimates made by the New Mexico Employment Security Commission in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics. All figures are rounded to the nearest 50, implying accuracy not greater than plus or minus fifty persons. Detail may not add up to totals, since all totals are rounded figures obtained from adding actual estimates.

minority of New Mexico workers, and the welfare of this minority depends on the continued prosperity of the majority.

The disproportionate role of government in the State's postwar economy has so far been a pleasant experience for nearly all New Mexicans, but it carries also disproportionate risks for the future. If the Korean War ends, for instance, the State will almost certainly suffer, just as the start of the war in June 1950 immediately and protractedly stimulated the State's economy. Even a leveling-off of government spending, such as might accompany an economy move in Washington, would hurt, because the State is geared not to mere high-level government spending, but to continuously expanding government spending.

M.B.

Financial Activity

The trend of banking activities in New Mexico in 1952 would seem to indicate continued growth and prosperity. Business activity as reflected in bank debits continued to increase, as did both demand and time deposits. Life insurance sales, and employment in financial activities were above the previous year throughout 1952. Bank loans and discounts, however, decreased in 1952. In only three months of the year did the value of bank loans and discounts in the State exceed the same month of 1951. The declining volume of bank debits suggests that there has been some slackening in those business activities which borrow most heavily from commercial banks.

A declining volume of loans in the face of an increasing volume of debits and demand deposits is unusual, since these factors typically move in the same direction. Business relies upon banks to provide a certain volume of short-term funds through loans, which of course increases the volume of bank loans and discounts. Most business loans are left as additions to the borrowers' deposit balances, thus increasing the volume of demand deposits. The business draws on these deposits by paying for goods and services by check, the amounts of which are eventually "debited" against the depositor's (borrower's) account, and this increases the volume of bank debits.

Because of this relationship between business operations and banking activity, business growth is usually indicated by an expanding volume of loans, deposits, and debits.

The apparent contradictions posed by the decreased volume of bank loans and discounts in the State is less puzzling when the nine districts of the State are analyzed separately. The districts, of from two to five counties, permit a more detailed local picture of banking activity, and also preserve the secrecy of operations of any single bank. Since the districts follow county lines they often include different types of economic activity. But usually a trend in one bank in a district will be apparent also in the other banks of that district.

Bank debits in District 1, San Juan and McKinley counties, increased 29 per cent from 1950 to 1951, and 13 per cent from 1951 to 1952. The volume of loans and discounts in this district rose 93 per cent from 1950 to 1951, and only 28 per cent from 1951 to 1952.

The natural gas and oil-exploration boom in San Juan county was responsible for a great deal of this increased banking activity. Jobs in petroleum industries in the district rose from a monthly average of 250 in 1950 to 506 in 1951, and to 743 for the first six months of 1952. The remainder of the year probably saw continued increases. Although oil production has not increased in McKinley county, the entire district has been stimulated by uranium prospecting and mining. Most of the gain in banking activity in District 1 seems to be due to this growing activity in gas, oil, and uranium.

Bank debits in District 2, Rio Arriba, Taos, Sandoval, Los Alamos, and Santa Fe counties, increased 54 per cent from 1950 to 1951, and 3 per cent from 1951 to 1952. Loans and discounts increased 17 per cent from 1950 to 1951, and only 1 per cent during last year. A similar slowing in the

TABLE XV

INDEXES OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITY
New Mexico--1951 & 1952

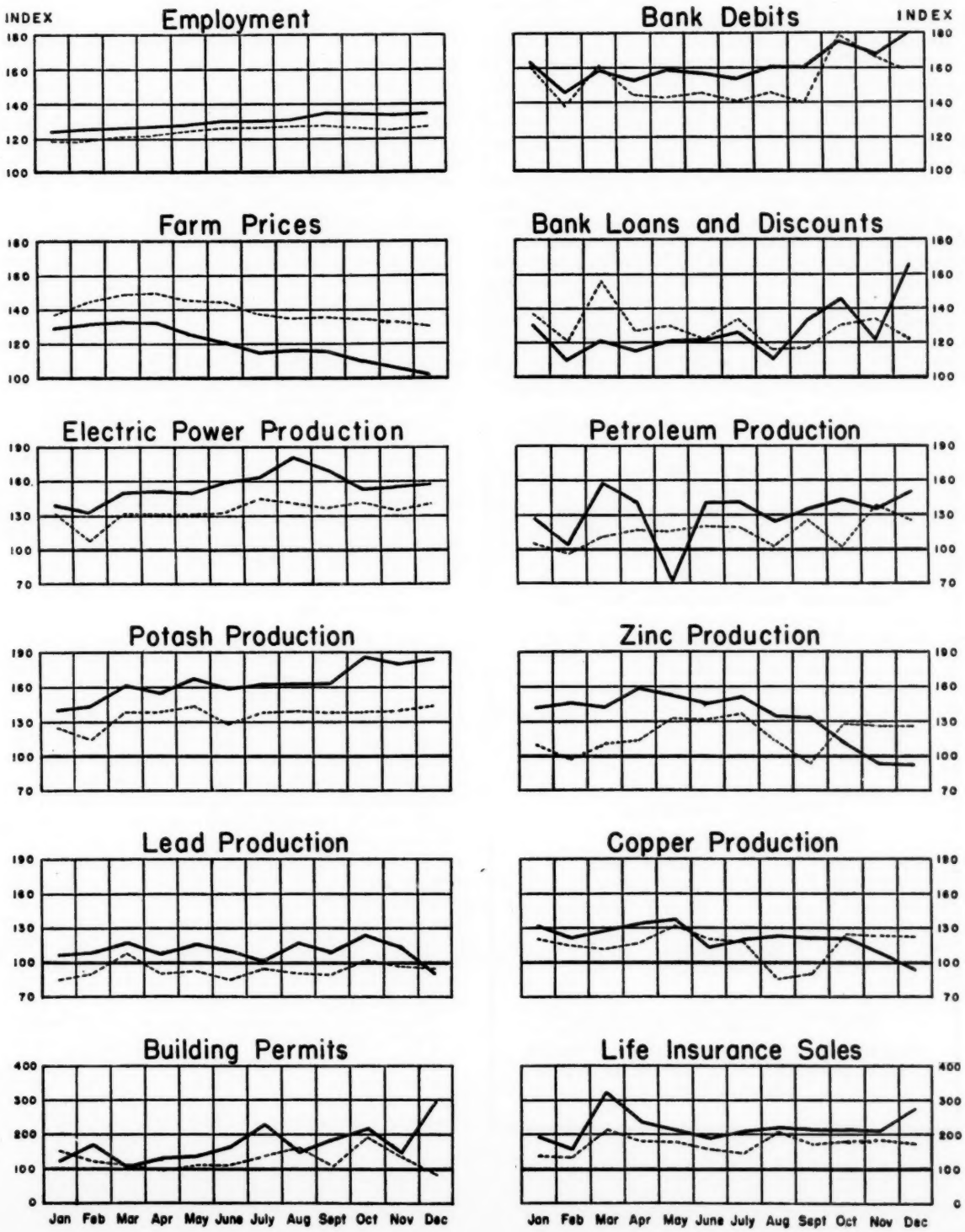
(Monthly Average 1947-49 = 100)

		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Year
Bank Debits to Individual Accounts	1951	161.3	138.2	161.1	144.4	143.0	145.6	140.7	145.7	140.0	179.5	167.0	158.6	152.0
	1952	164.8	146.0	159.1	153.2	159.2	157.5	153.2	160.2	160.2	176.0	167.6	180.7	161.5
Bank Loans and Discounts	1951	137.4	120.7	156.0	127.1	129.7	122.6	134.9	116.3	116.9	131.3	134.5	121.7	129.0
	1952	131.9	109.9	121.3	115.8	120.2	121.5	124.1	110.7	133.5	146.0	121.3	169.7	126.8
Demand Deposits	1951	120.6	125.3	118.7	120.6	121.5	119.3	119.6	121.2	122.9	134.8	136.0	139.1	124.9
	1952	134.6	134.1	132.2	134.3	133.2	133.9	132.7	134.0	134.0	141.8	145.2	147.8	136.5
Time Deposits	1951	108.9	109.0	108.1	108.6	109.7	113.1	116.8	118.8	124.5	126.0	127.7	130.8	117.0
	1952	132.6	130.5	132.6	134.7	136.9	139.2	141.8	144.8	147.6	147.9	149.4	154.0	141.0
Life Insurance Sales	1951	139.7	137.6	215.3	181.9	180.0	158.7	149.6	202.0	174.4	180.1	182.1	173.6	172.9
	1952	196.6	157.4	322.7	238.0	212.1	191.8	207.7	220.8	213.1	216.1	210.2		
Employment in Finance	1951	162.0	165.2	162.0	158.7	155.5	155.5	152.3	149.0	148.8	149.0	158.7	162.0	156.3
	1952	165.2	168.4	165.2	165.2	168.4	168.4	171.7	171.7	174.9	181.4	181.4	187.9	172.8

Source: Bureau of Business Research based on reports of banks, Life Insurance Agency Management Association, and the New Mexico Employment Security Commission.

INDEXES OF BUSINESS ACTIVITY IN NEW MEXICO 1951 & 1952

1951 ----- (Monthly Average 1947-1949=100) 1952 —



growth of banking activity is apparent in almost every other area of the State. Although bank debits increased in seven of the nine districts during 1952, only in District 4, Bernalillo, Valencia, and Torrance counties, did debits increase more than in 1951.

District 2 has a mixed economy, and banking conditions there cannot usually be attributed to the condition of any one type of industry or business. In 1952 coal mining, lumbering, printing, and construction fell off in this area. New oil discoveries in Rio Arriba county have offset these declines to some extent, however. In 1951 Rio Arriba produced a monthly average of 12,951 barrels of oil. This increased to 32,232 barrels in 1952, still a minor production for the State, but a significant increase for the county and district.

The declining volume of bank loans and bank debits and discounts in District 3, Colfax, Union, and Harding counties, indicates an apparent business set-back in 1952. During the year bank debits decreased 13 per cent, and loans and discounts decreased 25 per cent. This is primarily ranching country, supplemented by coal mining in Colfax county. Union county has fewer than 550 non-agricultural wage earners, and Harding fewer than 250. Drought has so reduced range feed and driven up the price of other feeds, that it has led to liquidation of some livestock. In Harding county purchases of United States Savings Bonds were up 140 per cent in 1952 over 1951, probably representing investment of the proceeds of ranch and livestock sales. Banks are cautious about extending credit to small ranchers under these conditions, and large ranchers often want to invest in something more profitable than a falling cattle market. Thus savings deposits in District 3 have increased steadily from mid-1951 to the present.

Bank debits indicated a decrease in business activity also in Districts 5 and 6, comprising the farming and ranching counties of Mora, San Miguel, Guadalupe, De Baca, Quay, Curry, and Roosevelt. District 6, including the stockyard city of Clovis, had a decrease also in loans and discounts, and Roosevelt County (Portales) bought 113 per cent more Savings Bonds than in 1951.

The remaining districts, including all of southern New Mexico, showed signs of continued prosperity. Bank debits in District 4, including Albuquerque, rose 20 per cent in 1952, compared with only 7 per cent in 1951. Only in this district did business activity increase at a more rapid rate last year than in 1951.

Except in northeastern New Mexico, business activity as reflected by bank debits increased in 1952, although at a slower rate than in the past. Most of this growth is due to continued expansion of the State's mineral resources: petroleum, natural gas, potash, and copper. Ranching areas were hard hit. Cotton growers likewise suffered, but the liquidation of accumulated supplies masked serious losses. Falling prices limit further expansion of cotton production, but improved farming methods indicate a substantial harvest and its inevitably resulting problems for 1953.

S.D.

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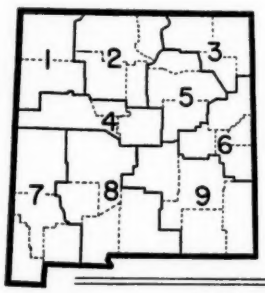
"The Community Investment in New Industry," a special article published in NEW MEXICO BUSINESS for October 1952, was written with Southwestern needs in mind. Attracting industry involves far more than slick presentation and salesmanship. This article shows the potential impact of new industry on the entire community: on utilities, streets and traffic, police and fire departments, schools, health, and recreation. It also discusses the benefits which a community gains by the establishment of a new industry. Next, it shows what a community may do to create a more favorable prospect for new industries, and how the necessary improvements may be financed. If you are interested in bringing new industry to New Mexico, you may have a free copy of this article by writing the Bureau of Business Research. A complete list of other articles still available is given on the last page of this bulletin.

The Bureau also has available a few remaining copies of its 270-page study, *Financing Unemployment Insurance in New Mexico,* published in 1952, and prepared in collaboration with the United States Department of Labor and the Employment Security Commission of New Mexico.

BUSINESS ACTIVITY IN NEW MEXICO

		Index	Per Cent Change Indicated Month Compared With: Preceding Month	Same Month Last Year
DECEMBER DATA (1947-49 Mo. Av.=100)				
Life Insurance Sales	"	277.0	+ 31.7	+ 59.5
Bank Debits	"	180.7	+ 7.8	+ 14.8
Bank Loans and Discounts	"	165.7	+ 23.4	+ 37.4
Demand Deposits	"	147.8	+ 1.8	+ 7.9
Time Deposits	"	154.0	+ 3.1	+ 20.1
Postal Receipts	"	292.1	+111.2	+ 17.6
Wage Employment	"	134.8	+ 1.3	+ 5.9r
Manufacturing	"	168.3	— 2.4	+ 10.3
Mining	"	132.8	+ 0.7	+ 12.5
Transportation & Utilities	"	131.6	+ 1.0	+ 9.4
Trade	"	136.2	+ 4.1	+ 3.8
Finance	"	187.9	+ 3.6	+ 16.0
Services & Miscellaneous	"	123.7	— 0.9	+ 6.4
Government	"	142.8	+ 3.6	+ 6.0r
Contract Construction	"	96.6	— 5.4	— 9.0
Building Permits	"	297.2	+ 99.6	+197.4
Petroleum Production	"	150.4	+ 10.1	+ 19.5
Electric Power Production	"	156.1	+ 1.2	+ 11.0
Mine Production—Metallics	"	94.2	— 9.7	— 22.9
Mine Production—Copper	"	94.6	— 13.1	— 22.9
Mine Production—Lead	"	90.2	— 20.7	— 4.5
Mine Production—Zinc	"	94.1	— 0.3	— 26.1
Mine Production—Coal	"	59.4	— 0.7	— 18.6
Mine Production—Potash	"	184.7	+ 1.7	+ 28.0
All Farm Prices	"	102.4	— 3.9	— 19.7
Livestock Prices	"	102.0	— 4.1	— 24.8
Crop Prices	"	112.3	— 2.4	— 4.4
JANUARY DATA (1947-49 Mo. Av.=100)				
Bank Debits	"	185.2	+ 2.5	+ 12.8
Bank Loans and Discounts	"	151.6	— 8.5	+ 13.2
Demand Deposits	"	142.9	— 3.3	+ 7.4
Time Deposits	"	156.8	+ 1.8	+ 20.4
Building Permits	"	307.9	+ 3.6	+101.7
Postal Receipts	"	163.3	— 44.1	+ 3.0
All Farm Prices	"	101.7	— 0.7	— 22.2
Livestock Prices	"	102.7	+ 0.7	— 21.2
Crop Prices	"	107.9	— 3.9	— 18.7
FEBRUARY DATA				
Retail Food Prices in Albuquerque (Sept. 1949=100)		105.5	— 2.8	— 3.4



BUSINESS ACTIVITY BY DISTRICTS

District	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Present Month Compared with Last Month									
Bank Debits	+19.4	+ 0.5	—14.3	+ 3.8	— 6.5	+14.4	— 8.9	+ 6.0	— 2.3
Loans and Discounts	— 5.0	—13.9	—26.2	— 8.6	—31.4	— 8.2	—25.6	+ 5.2	— 0.2
Demand Deposits	— 2.2	— 7.0	— 0.9	— 2.3	+ 0.7	— 4.6	+ 0.8	— 0.7	— 5.5
Time Deposits	+ 0.5	+ 0.2	+ 0.8	+ 2.9	0.0	+ 0.9	— 0.9	+ 1.7	+ 0.4
Postal Receipts	—35.7	—40.8	—43.4	—45.8	—47.0	—40.0	—43.5	—38.2	—47.0
Present Month Compared with Last Year									
Bank Debits	+16.6	+16.7	—14.4	+19.4	— 9.0	+ 6.0	+ 3.7	+13.1	+ 8.3
Loans and Discounts	— 2.3	+ 7.6	— 8.4	+30.0	—31.4	— 5.7	+17.1	+28.7	+ 9.5
Demand Deposits	+ 4.7	+ 3.1	— 1.7	+19.6	+ 4.9	— 5.1	— 7.2	+15.8	+ 2.7
Time Deposits	+11.2	+27.7	+19.1	+27.3	+11.9	+18.8	+17.2	+15.6	—15.0
Postal Receipts	+14.4	+21.6	— 5.7	+ 0.5	—12.9	— 4.3	— 1.1	+12.3	+ 0.8

Source of data:

Sales (all categories), Petroleum Production, and Potash Production: N. M. Bureau of Revenue

Life Insurance Sales (New Ordinary): Life Insurance Agency Management Association

Wage Employment (all categories): N. M. Employment Security Commission

Electric Power Production: Federal Power Commission

Metallics Production: U. S. Bureau of Mines

Coal Production: N. M. State Mine Inspector

Farm Prices: U. S. Bureau of Agricultural Economics

Bank data (all series), Postal Receipts, Building Permits, and Retail Food Prices in Albuquerque: Bureau of Business Research

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